

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently amended) A process for disrupting filter cake in an underground formation, which process comprises:

(i) ~~incorporating into a treatment fluid~~ dispersing in a treatment fluid a solid polymer capable of being converted by hydrolysis into one or more organic acids;

(ii) introducing the treatment fluid into said underground formation containing said filter cake; and

(iii) allowing the solid polymer to ~~hydrolyse~~hydrolyze in the presence of water to produce organic acid such that acid soluble material within the filter cake or adjacent formation is dissolved.

42. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 41 wherein the solid polymer is a polyester.

43. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 41 wherein the solid polymer is an aliphatic polyester.

44. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 41 wherein the polymer is a polymer which comprises one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of lactic acid, lactide, glycolic acid, glycolide, caprolactone and ~~(optionally)~~ other hydroxy, carboxylic acid ~~{{or}}~~and hydroxy-carboxylic acid compounds which may condense with a compound selected from the group consisting of lactic acid, lactide, glycolic acid, glycolide ~~{{or}}~~and

caprolactone.

45. (Previously presented) A process according claim 41 wherein hydrolysis of the solid polymer produces lactic acid or glycolic acid.

46. (Previously presented) A process according claim 41 wherein the solid polymer is polylactic acid or polyglycolic acid.

47. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 41 wherein one or more other materials, chemicals, catalysts or enzymes are incorporated into the solid polymer by encapsulation to allow their controlled release coincident with or after acid production.

48. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 41 wherein one or more other materials, chemicals, catalysts or enzymes are incorporated into the solid polymer by dissolution or dispersion to allow their controlled release coincident with acid production.

49. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 47 wherein ~~the~~ said one or more other materials, chemicals, catalysts or enzymes released from the solid polymer have functional activity for filter cake treatment or as production chemicals.

50. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 41 wherein the solid polymer is used in the form of a sphere, cylinder, cuboid, ~~[[fibre]]~~fiber, powder or bead, or other configuration.

51. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 41 which further comprises incorporating a buffer into the treatment fluid.

52. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 41 which further comprises incorporating into the treatment fluid one or more polymer breakers.

53. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 52 wherein the polymer breaker is a hydrolase enzyme.

54. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 52 wherein the polymer breaker is a polysaccharide ~~hydrolysing~~hydrolyzing enzyme.

55. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 52 wherein the polymer breaker is an enzyme which can ~~hydrolyse~~hydrolyze a polymer selected from the group consisting of starch, xanthan, cellulose, guar, scleroglucan or succinoglycan ~~{{or}}~~and a derivative of any one of these polymers.

56. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 52 wherein the polymer breaker is an oxidant.

57. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 56 wherein the polymer breaker is an oxidant selected from the group consisting of persulphate, hypochlorite, peroxide, perborate, percarbonate, perphosphate, persilicate, a metal cation and a hydrogen peroxide adduct.

58. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 52 wherein the polymer breaker is in the form of a delayed release preparation.

59. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 41 wherein the treatment fluid is a gravel packing fluid which comprises one or more solid polymers and ~~optionally~~ one or more polymer breakers.

60. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 41 wherein the treatment fluid disrupts or degrades at least a portion of the filter cake and increases the permeability of the formation.

61. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 41 wherein at least a portion of the polymer remains in the underground formation and continuously releases organic acid and a production chemical during hydrocarbon production or water injection until the polymer has

completely ~~hydrolysed~~hydrolyzed.

62. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 41 wherein the underground formation contains hydrocarbon or water and wherein the process further comprises recovering a hydrocarbon or water from the treated formation.

63. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 41 wherein the treatment fluid containing the solid polymer is introduced into the formation via a well bore which extends to the formation.

64. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 41 wherein the treatment fluid further comprises an acid sensitive viscosifying agent and wherein the viscosity of the fluid is reduced by the acid generated by hydrolysis of the solid polymer.

65. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 64 wherein the viscosifying agent is borate crosslinked guar gum.

66. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 41 wherein the treatment fluid further comprises calcium peroxide and wherein the organic acid produced by hydrolysis of the solid polymer leads to the generation of hydrogen peroxide.

67. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 41 wherein the treatment fluid further comprises ammonium bifluoride and wherein the organic acid produced by hydrolysis of the solid polymer leads to the generation of hydrogen fluoride.

68.-75. (Canceled).

76. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 48 wherein ~~the~~ said one or more other materials, chemicals, catalysts or enzymes released from the solid polymer have functional activity for filter cake treatment or as production chemicals.

77. (New) A process according to claim 41 wherein the polymer is a polymer which comprises one or more compounds selected from the list consisting of lactic acid, lactide, glycolic acid, glycolide, and caprolactone.

78. (New) A process according to claim 41 wherein the treatment fluid is a gravel packing fluid which comprises one or more solid polymers.